

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 03079 081223Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MCE-00 /052 W  
-----031190 081507Z /44

R 081110Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2028  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T SANA 3079

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, YE  
SUBJECT: ARMS FOR NORTHERN TRIBES

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER DISCLOSES YAR HAS INTER-  
CEPTED ARMS DESIRED FOR NORTHERN TRIBES AND IMPLIES THIS HAS  
PLACED NEW STRAIN ON YEMENY SAUDI RELATIONSHIPS AND WILLING-  
NESS OF YARG TO SEEK PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH NORTHN SHAYKHS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. ON THURSDAY AUGUST 4 ASNAJ CALLED ME IN TO REPORT THAT YAR  
MILITARY UNIT HAD INTERCEPTED LARGE SHIPMENT OF ARMS AFTER  
IT HAD ENTERED YEMEN FROM NORTH. INTENDED RECIPIENTS WER  
NORTHERN SHAYKHS.

2. ACCORDING ASNAJ, PART OF SHIPMENT--WHICH WAS IN SYRIAN  
TRUCKS WHICH HAD TRANSITED KINGDOMS OF JORDAN AND SAUDI  
ARABIA--HAD ESCAPED CAPTURE BY NEWLY REINFORCED SAADA  
GARRISON. DOCUMENTS AND OTHER EVIDENCE LED TO DISCOVERY  
OF ANOTHER SHIPMENT WHICH, SAID ASNAJ, SYRIANS HAD INTER-  
CEPTED FOR YARG BEFORE ARMS COULD LEAVE DAMASCUS.

3. ARMS ARE "APPARENTLY" OF EASTERN ORIGIN, LIKE SEVERAL  
OTHER PRIVATE SALES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN PAST YEAR TO  
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GUN-HUNGRY YEMEN. BULGARIANS AND RUMANIANS ARE  
APPARENTLY WILLING TO SELL TO PRIVATE DEALERS ON FAIRLY LARGE  
SCALE ALTHOUGH WITHOUT MAKING AVAILABLE HEAVY WEAPONS  
("MORTARS, YES; CANNON, NO" SAID ASNAJ). IN ANY CASE,  
ARMS WERE AIRLIFTED TO DAMASCUS, PAPERS PRESENTED--  
ASNAJ SAID KHADDAM HAD TOLD HIM ALL THE PAPERS WERE IN  
ORDER AND THEREFORE SYRIANS DID NOT OBJECT TO COMMERCIAL

TRUCK RENTAL--AND JOURNEY SOUTH BEGAN. ASNAJ SAID THAT YAR PRESIDENT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO GO TO DAMASCUS TO THANK ASAD FOR INTERCEPTED SECOND SHIPMENT BUT, WITH VISIT OF US SECRETARY OF STATE, YAR FORMIN WOULD NOT LEAVE YEMEN UNTIL PRESENT WEEK. (AS OF 7 AUGUST, ASNAJ HAD NOT DEPARTED.) RESULT IS NUMBER OF YEMENIS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, INCLUDING ONE SALIH AL-HADDI.

4. EARLIER ARMS DEALS OF THIS SORT HAD BEEN FLOWN INTO TAIZ, BUT LATEST SHIPMENT, DELIVERED TO NORTH NOT SOUTH OF YEMEN IS SEEN AS THREAT TO SECURITY OF STATE.

5. ASNAJ DID NOT RPT NOT SAY THAT SAUDIS HAD ANY COMPLICITY IN THIS EXCHANGE. INSTEAD HE SAID SIMPLY AL-HADDI WAS "STUPID" AND THAT YAR PRESIDENT HAMDI IS VERY MAD, PARTLY BECAUSE HE HAD REGARDED AL-HADDI AS FRIEND, PARTLY BECAUSE ANYTHING THAT STRENGTHENS ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN INFURIATES IBRAHIM AL-HAMDI.

6. I PROBED FOR DETAILS--MORE NAMES, FUNDING SOURCES SAUDI COMPLICITY, LOCAL POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS--BUT GOT VERY LITTLE. ASNAJ PROMISED MORE DETAILS WHEN HE GOT THEM HIMSELF. AT ONE POINT, HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE DID SAY THAT SAUDIS PROVIDED ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN WITH SUBSIDY OF JUST OVER \$100,000 A MONTH.

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COMMENT: IMPLICATION WHICH YEMENIS SEE IN THIS CASE, AS IN OTHER PROBLEMS WITH NORTH, SEEMED CLEAR: SAUDIS COULD STOP INSURRECTION IN NORTH IF THEY WANTED. MOREOVER, IN YEMENI VIEW, SAUDIS ARE MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN TO RESIST CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. ASNAJ DID NOT RPT NOT ACCUSE SAUDIS IN THIS CASE AND IN TEND TO THINK (LIKE HIM) THAT DEAL WAS RESULT OF MANEUVERING SHAYKHS AND "STUPID" AL-HADDI. HOWEVER, DEAL INEVITABLY PUTS ADDED STRAIN ON YEMENI-SAUDI RELATIONSHIPS AT TIME WHEN SAUDIS HAVE DELAYED SUBSIDY CHECK TEMPORARILY, DRESSED DOWN HAMDI IN JIDD AND REFUSED YAR REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION WITH ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN. THAT SAUDIS WOULD LET ARMS INTO PARTS OF NORTHERN YEMEN WHICH SHAYKHS (NOT YARG) CONTROL, MUST SEEM PART OF SAME CAMPAIGN OF PRESSURE FROM SAUDIS TO OUST SOVIETS HERE. YEMENIS RESENT IT.  
RANSOM

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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